efficient utilization of available water resources through micro-irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system, (vii) reforming agricultural markets and widespread use of post-harvest technology, (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers such as crop insurance and (ix) providing financial support to encourage them to use tractors and power-driven equipment, plant protection equipments for improved efficiency and higher productivity.

Insurance claim cases with FISHCOPFED

3374.DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 249 cases of insurance claims covering the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh are pending with FISHCOPFED, New Delhi since 1997-98;

(b) the reasons for this pendency; and

(c) by when all the cases will be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives (FISHCOPFED) in liaison with the participating state Governments and the Insurance Company implement the Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen. The Insurance Company settles the insurance claims of fishermen of various tates including Andhra Pradesh received through FISHCOPFED. No insurance claim of fishermen of Andhra Pradesh as such is pending with the FISHCOPFED. Among others, one of the main reasons for pendency, if any, is lack of supporting documents submitted along with claims. However, during 1997-98 to 2005-06 (till 16-12-2005), 495 insurance claims of fishermen of Andhra Pradesh state involving financial implication of Fs. 1,97,65,000 have been settled by the FISHCOPFED through the Insurance Companies.